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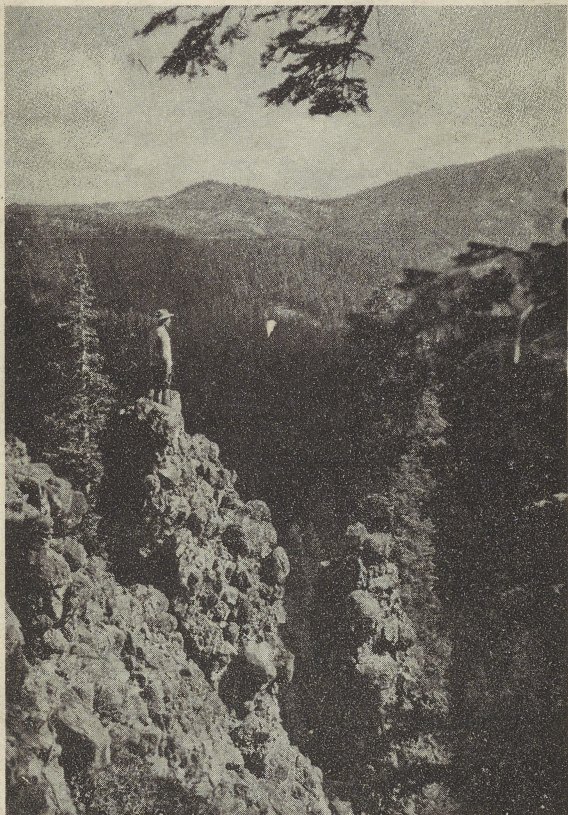
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LASSEN

U.S. Department of Agriculture

# NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA

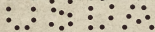


F-200739

The Lassen National Forest is rich in timber, water, forage, wild life, and recreational resources

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. FOREST SERVICE California region  
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT





## NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

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*Free public use of national forests is invited.*

*Visitors to the Lassen National Forest are required to observe the following rules:*

1. A camp-fire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fire in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.
2. Each automobile and pack-train party camping in a national forest must be equipped with a shovel and an ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes.
3. During the fire season smoking is prohibited in the national forests. In camps or at places of habitation smoking is allowed, but smokers must be careful with their lighted matches, cigars, and cigarettes, and pipe heels.
4. In periods of high fire hazard camping and camp or picnic fires may be restricted to posted camp grounds, and part or all of the national forests may be closed to public use and travel.
5. Build small fires. Clear an area not less than 5 feet in diameter before starting a fire.
6. Never leave a fire without totally extinguishing it with a plentiful supply of water.
7. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.
8. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.
9. Observe the State fish and game laws.

**A MOMENT OF CARE MAY SAVE MONTHS OF REGRET**

DEC 10 1942



# LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST

## CALIFORNIA

The Lassen National Forest, an area of rugged mountains, high plateaus, forests, and lakes, is located in north-eastern California, mainly in Lassen and Shasta Counties, but also partly in Butte, Tehama, and Plumas Counties. It embraces the northern extreme of the Sierra Nevada and the southern end of the Cascade Range, the North Fork of Feather River and its tributaries separating these two great mountain ranges. The forest is bounded on the north by the Modoc and Shasta National Forests, on the east by sagebrush plateaus and fertile valleys, on the south by the Plumas National Forest, and on the west by the foothills of the Sacramento Valley. The total area within the Lassen Forest boundary is 1,306,727 acres, of which 945,957 acres is Federal land. The Lassen National Forest was created by presidential proclamation on June 2, 1905, and takes its name from Lassen Peak, formerly a part of the forest.

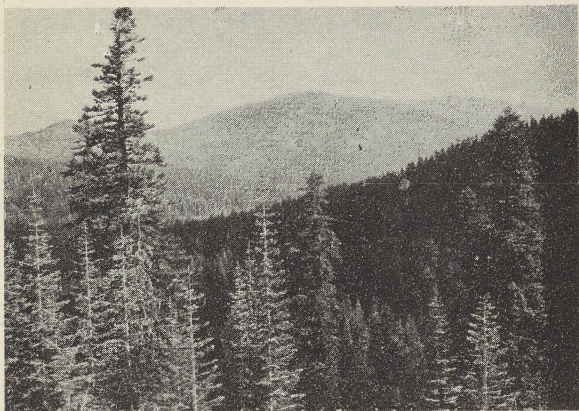
### HISTORY

Two names intimately connected with the early history of the Lassen region are Lassen and Roop. Peter Lassen, a native of Denmark, was a pioneer scout and explorer, who first crossed the plains to Oregon and California in 1839. In 1847 he returned to his home in Missouri. The next year he led a band of immigrants into the West, and was the discoverer of what is known as the Lassen Route across the Sierra Nevada, which crossed the summit in the vicinity of Deer Creek Meadows. In 1854 he came to Honey Lake Valley and found there Isaac N. Roop, who had preceded him by one year.

In those days the eastern boundary of California had not been definitely surveyed, and the Honey Lake settlers believed that they lived outside of California and were subject to Mormon government at Salt Lake City. They therefore, in 1856, organized a territory about the size of Nevada and called it Nataqua, Peter Lassen being elected surveyor and Isaac Roop recorder. Soon afterwards the Honey Lake settlers joined with those in the Carson Valley country, who were trying to form a new territory in western Utah which they named Nevada. Without waiting for Federal sanction they organized a legislature and a full set of officers, and Roop was elected governor. Later, in 1861, Nevada was proclaimed a territory by

Congress and James W. Nye was appointed governor. Honey Lake Valley was included as part of Lake County, Nev., but the name was changed to Roop County in 1862.

All this time Plumas County, Calif., had been claiming the Honey Lake region and had tried to collect taxes and otherwise govern it. The inevitable friction between Roop County, Nev., and Plumas County, Calif., led to a battle in which the Plumas sheriff with his posse besieged thirty or more old time "never sweats," including the Roop County judge and sheriff, who took refuge in a cabin built by Roop on the eastern edge of Susanville. After hours of firing, in which several of the combatants were wounded, a truce was declared and it was decided to submit the dispute for arbitration to the Governors of Nevada and California. The boundary between Nevada and California was then surveyed and Honey Lake Valley was found to be in California and a part of Plumas County.



F-200732

**There is seven billion feet of Government timber in the Lassen National Forest**

However, the settlers of Honey Lake Valley did finally obtain local government in 1864, when the California Legislature created the county of Lassen and included Honey Lake Valley therein.

Roop built the first house in Susanville in 1853 and the town was first named Roopstown, but the name was changed to Susanville in 1868 in honor of Roop's daughter Susan.

Peter Lassen settled on a ranch about 5 miles southeast of Susanville, where can be seen the two monuments to his memory, one erected many years ago by the Native Sons of the Golden West, and a newer shaft of granite erected by the people of the northern counties of the State of California in 1915. One story is that Lassen



was killed by Indians close to a great pine tree near the mountains; another is that he was found dead near Pyramid Lake and that his slayers were as likely to have been white men as Indians.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Lassen National Forest is reached by five main highways, which, together with numerous secondary roads, make all parts of the forest readily accessible.

**Lassen Volcanic Highway**, mostly surfaced with crushed rock, runs east and west through the forest, connecting Red Bluff on the Pacific Highway with Susanville (107 miles). At Mineral a road enters the southeastern portion of the Lassen Volcanic National Park in the Lassen Peak region, and another road leads north to Viola (22 miles). Six miles from Chester a road runs north to Drakesbed (11 miles). Two roads join the highway at Chester, one leading south along the west shore of Lake Almanor to Quincy (47.4 miles), and the other north to Juniper Lake in the park. From Westwood a road runs south along the east shore of Lake Almanor and joins the Chester-Quincy Road at Big Meadows Dam (11.4 miles). From Susanville the Lassen Volcanic Highway continues in a southeasterly direction via Honey Lake Valley and Doyle to Reno, Nev. (90 miles).

**Humbug Road**, from Oroville in the Sacramento Valley to Chester (82.4 miles), passes through the southern part of the forest via Magalia, crosses the Sierra summit at 6,500 feet elevation, and connects at Chester with the Lassen Volcanic Highway.

**Humboldt Road**, from Chico in the Sacramento Valley to Chester (71.5 miles), parallels the Humbug Road through the forest and crosses Humboldt Pass at 6,649 feet elevation. It connects with the Humbug Road by a branch road from Butte Meadows to Chaparral, the main road joining the Humbug Road at Lake Almanor.

**Redding-Viola Road**, a good mountain automobile road, runs from Redding on the Pacific Highway to Viola (46 miles), Manzanita Lake, and other points of interest in the Lassen Forest and Park.

**Redding-Alturas State Highway**, partly surfaced with crushed rock, skirts the northern boundary of the Lassen Forest and connects Redding with Alturas (158 miles). Near Burney a branch road runs south through Hat Creek Valley to Viola (44.2 miles). At Pittville another branch leads south through the forest to Westwood and Susanville on the Lassen Volcanic Highway.

Burned forests pay no wages—Build no homes



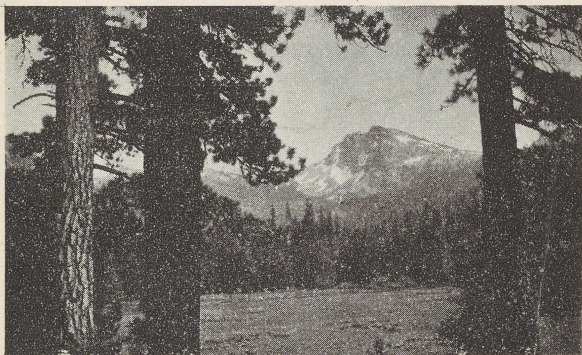
Stages are operated during the summer months over the more important roads, giving access to many points of interest within the forest.

No railroads run through the Lassen Forest, but three main lines are not far distant from the east, south, and west boundaries. On the east is the Fernley-Klamath Falls line of the Southern Pacific, with a branch line from Wendel to Westwood. On the south of the Western Pacific, running up the Feather River Canyon, gives access to the Pulga and Mayaro regions. The Shasta Route of the Southern Pacific makes accessible the western portion of the forest from Sacramento Valley points, with a branch line running from Chico to Stirling City, near the southwest corner of the forest.

The Forest Service has built over 400 miles of road and 250 miles of trails within the Lassen National Forest for use in administration and protection. There is also a large additional mileage of roads maintained by the Forest Service, the county, or the State, which is open to public travel.

## LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

The Lassen Volcanic National Park, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, with headquarters at Mineral, lies within the Lassen National Forest. This park area, which was formerly a part of the Lassen-Forest, was created by an act of Congress approved by President Wilson on August 9, 1916, following public interest aroused by the eruption of Lassen Peak, the only active volcano in continental United States.



F-219954

**Brokeoff Mountain, Lassen Volcanic National Park. A Forest Service fire-lookout station is located on this peak**

The renewal of volcanic activity of Lassen Peak (10,577 feet), long believed to be extinct, began on May 30, 1914. Succeeding outbursts on June 1 and 14 opened a large crater from which issued clouds of steam and volcanic ashes. On September 29 a particularly severe explosion demolished the Forest Service fire-lookout station on the peak, knocking it from its foundation. The most violent of all explosions occurred on May 22, 1915, when a column of smoke and ash rose in a cauliflower-shaped cloud to an estimated height of 36,000 feet. To-day many hot springs, slight earth tremors, and occasional jets of steam indicate that Mount Lassen is not yet dormant.

Information on the scenic and geological attractions and roads and trails of the Lassen Volcanic National Park may be obtained from the park superintendent at Mineral, Calif.

The United States Geological Survey maintains a volcanological laboratory at Mineral where scientific observations on earthquakes and volcanic phenomena are made. Those interested may visit the laboratory and have the work that is being done explained to them by the scientist in charge.

## RESOURCES

The Lassen National Forest is rich in timber, water, forage, wild life, and recreational resources. These resources are protected and managed by the Forest Service for the use and enjoyment of all the people, but more particularly for the citizens of the counties in which the forest is located. The object of national forest administration is so to regulate and correlate these uses that the greatest permanent good will be received by the greatest number. Every one who uses the forest should, therefore, cooperate in preventing and suppressing timber and brush fires, in preserving a pure and abundant water supply, and in bringing about the proper use of forage, game, and recreational resources. Only through such cooperation can the full benefits of the forest be enjoyed.

### Timber

The Lassen National Forest, with its extensive and valuable stands of western yellow pine, is one of the great centers of lumbering operations in California. Because of its geographic and altitudinal range, practically all types of forest cover and species of trees in the State, with the exception of the Sequoias, are found in the forest. It is estimated that there is 7,000,000,000 board

Do you like to fight fire? Be careful with burning matches, tobacco, and camp fires.



feet of merchantable Government timber in the Lassen Forest, with an even greater total in private ownership within and adjacent to the Federal holdings. The national forest timber land, on which the timber is cut and protected by scientific and businesslike forestry methods, is capable of yielding 150,000,000 board feet of lumber per year for all time. The value of such a permanent natural



F-200962

**A virgin forest which with proper care and management will produce repeated crops of timber**



resource to the prosperity and well-being of the people of the Lassen region is impossible to estimate in dollars and cents, but points to the necessity for a keener appreciation and personal interest on the part of all citizens in the protection and proper management of private as well as Government forests.

The rapid growth of Lassen County in the past 15 years, particularly in the region surrounding Susanville, has been largely due to the lumber industry. Four large establishments manufacture private and Government timber into a variety of products and provide employment for some thousands of people.

All of the large lumber companies operating within or adjacent to the Lassen National Forest appreciate the benefits of adequate fire protection on their timber holdings, and have extensive fire-suppression organizations and equipment. The Fruit Growers Supply Co., in co-operation with the Forest Service, has undertaken, on an area of some 25,000 acres, an experiment to determine the relative effectiveness of fire control on cut-over areas by the fire-line and special-patrol system as against the current Government method of piling and burning slash. This company is also cutting its timber, in conjunction with that on adjoining national forest lands, on a sustained-yield basis.



F-236870

Rear view of "cats" and crawler type of log haulers used on a timber sale area Lassen National Forest

Automobiles and pack-train parties camping in the Lassen National Forest must be equipped with a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes.

The cut of Government timber from the Lassen National Forest averages 60,000,000 board feet per year. The mature standing timber on the forest is sold under competitive bid in order that it may be cut and removed to make way for young trees and seedlings, which will insure continuous production. Before making a sale, experienced woodsmen estimate the quantity and quality of the timber and its approximate value, based on existing market and logging conditions and allowing for a fair profit to the purchaser. Prior to logging, the trees to be cut on a sale area are marked by a forest officer, the object being to leave enough young seed trees to form the basis for a second crop on the same land. Under such marking practices about 75 per cent of the volume of trees 20 inches or larger in diameter is removed. The Forest Service also supervises logging operations to see that no unnecessary damage is done to the trees left on the sale area and that the brush and slashing is piled and burned in the winter season to reduce the fire hazard. Timber on the watersheds of streams is not cut to an extent that will impair the protective cover that the forest affords, because one of the chief objects of the administration of the national forests is to regulate streamflow.



F-200505

National forest timber is cut so as to provide for repeated crops from the same land. Seed trees are left and the brush piled and burned in winter to reduce the fire hazard

### Forage

The Lassen Forest annually produces sufficient forage for the grazing of 13,000 head of cattle and horses and 26,000 sheep and goats. In the great valleys to the east

and west of the forest are numerous ranches which are dependent on the mountain ranges for summer feed for their livestock. The forage on the forest ranges is a valuable asset to the stockmen, allowing them to remove their stock from the ranches during the growing season and to store their hay and forage crops for winter feeding.

Continuous production and improvement of the forage as well as its complete use are the objects of Forest Service management of the grazing resources. Allotments of range are made only to qualified stock owners. The number of stock is limited to the carrying capacity of the range, and the animals are so handled as to prevent overgrazing and depletion of the range. In addition, the utilization of the grass and weeds reduces the fire hazard on the forest.



F-17330A

**En route to summer pasture. The Lassen Forest each year provides range for 26,000 sheep**

Grazing allotments are also so regulated that there will be sufficient feed for the deer which live in the forest.

Areas for which there is an intense public demand for recreational purposes have been set aside for public use, and on these grazing is either restricted or prohibited.

### **Water**

The forest cover on the watersheds of the mountain streams in the Lassen National Forest is of vital importance in the regulation of streams which furnish water

**Throwing away lighted matches or tobacco, or other burning material, from an automobile or other moving vehicle is prohibited by State law.**



to thousands of acres of irrigated land and a number of large hydroelectric power plants. Absolute protection from fire is necessary in order to conserve this valuable water resource and to prevent erosion and floods.



F-208659

The protected streams of the Lassen National Forest furnish abundant water for the generation of hydroelectric power and the irrigation of agricultural lands

The west side of the Lassen Forest is drained by numerous streams which flow into the Sacramento River. Chief among these are the West Branch of the North Fork of Feather River, and Butte, Deer, Mill, Bottle, Digger, and Cow Creeks. Hat Creek and Burney Creek

drain north into the Pit River. The east-side region has few permanent streams because of the porous lava formation there. Pine Creek drains into Eagle Lake, running during the spring months. Susan River runs east past Susanville, draining into Honey Lake. Several small streams run south into Lake Almanor. The North Fork of Feather River rises near the Lassen Volcanic National Park boundary south of Lassen Peak, flows southeast into Lake Almanor, and then down the scenic Feather River Canyon to the Sacramento Valley.

Lake Almanor, one of the largest artificial reservoirs in the United States, has a storage capacity of 1,300,000 acre-feet of water for use in irrigation and the development of hydroelectric power. This lake is dependent on streams which without exception have their source in the tree-covered slopes of the Lassen National Forest. There are also several small reservoirs which are used to store water until it is needed to turn the turbines of power houses. In the future, as hydroelectric development increases, many other power sites in or adjacent to the Lassen Forest will be utilized.

Eagle Lake, on the eastern boundary of the forest, is fed by the drainage from the northeastern part of the forest. An irrigation project using the waters of this lake has reclaimed many thousands of acres of sagebrush desert in the Honey Lake Valley.

## NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS

Twenty-five per cent of the receipts from the sale or use of timber, forage, water, and recreational resources of the Lassen Forest is returned to the State, in lieu of taxes, for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located, for school and road development. During the past five years the amount thus returned to the counties in which the Lassen National Forest is located has totaled \$264,930. Lassen County's share of this total has been \$129,973. In addition to this sum, 10 per cent of the forest receipts is expended each year by the Forest Service for minor roads and trails on national forest lands, the largest project under this 10 per cent fund being the Mineral-Viola Road (18 miles), on which over \$36,000 of Federal money has been spent.

The Forest Service also cooperates extensively with the State and the counties in the construction of major roads which form a part of the State highway system

Smoking is prohibited in the Lassen National Forest during the dangerous fire season, except in camps or at places of habitation. Watch for "No Smoking" signs.

within the Lassen Forest, or serve as approach roads to Lassen Volcanic National Park, together with other roads of importance to intercommunity travel. Outstanding projects constructed or under way are:

Paynes Creek-Susanville Forest Highway (a part of the Lassen Volcanic Highway)—

Mineral section, 12 miles. Expenditures: Forest Service, \$219,261; State cooperation, \$48,128.

Morgan Springs section. Authorized for expenditure: Forest Service, \$150,000; State cooperation, \$150,000.

Mount Lassen Forest Highway:

Mineral to Lassen Park boundary. Authorized for expenditure: Forest Service, \$60,000; county cooperation, \$25,000.

Total expended and authorized on above projects:

Forest Service, \$429,261; Cooperators, \$223,128.

These projects are constructed under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads.

## RECREATION

The Lassen National Forest offers many attractions to the seeker after outdoor sport and recreation. Situated as it is within easy auto distance of the centers of population in the valley regions to the east and west, it affords an opportunity for many thousands to escape from the heat of the cities and the toil of the farm. Attractive camping grounds, where one may pitch his tent beside a stream or lake and enjoy the cool of the forest, and fishing, hiking, and swimming, are to be found in many parts of the forest. For those who do not wish to camp out, there are hotels and resorts and roadside auto camps which cater to the comfort of travelers. The Forest Service welcomes the vacationist to the national forests, and in return asks everyone to exercise the utmost care in the use of fire and to leave camp and picnic grounds in a neat and sanitary condition.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Butte Creek**, 35 miles from Chico over a fine mountain highway, offers good camping places and fair fishing. Deer Creek Canyon, a well-wooded region, rather wild and rough, can be reached by trail from this point.

**Mill Creek Canyon**, in the southwestern part of the forest, with its lava bluffs and rims, is more rugged and inaccessible than any other place on the forest. There are several trails by which the canyon and stream can be reached from the Lassen Trail road and the Lyonsville country.



**Silver Lake country**, a region of high lava buttes and many small rock-rimmed lakes, affords scenery and fishing well worth the trip. An auto road leads to Silver Lake from Westwood by way of Susan River and also via Bogard Ranger Station. From the lake, trips on foot can be made into the surrounding country.

**Lake Almanor** attracts many visitors during the summer season. It affords boating and good fishing. There are several camps, resorts, and hotels in this vicinity. Chester, near the north end of the lake, is a popular summer colony, with a hotel, stores, and summer homes. Along the North Fork of Feather River near here are ideal camping spots.

**Eagle Lake**, on the eastern boundary of the forest, is a large natural body of water to which both local inhabitants and travelers go for picnics, outings, and fishing trips.

**Lost Creek**, west of Viola, affords a fine view of the "devastated area." Here huge boulders, logs, and broken trees bear mute evidence of the tremendous force of the mud flow which followed the eruption of Mount Lassen Peak in 1915.

**Thousand Lake Valley** is a basin lying at about 7,000 feet, containing numerous lakes. Timber surrounds the lakes and adds to their beauty. This region is reached by trail from the Burney Spring Road or the Bunch Grass Valley Road. In order to preserve Thousand Lake Valley in a wilderness state it has been recommended that this region be set aside as a "primitive area" for the use and enjoyment of all the people.

For those who enjoy mountain climbing and exploration there are numerous peaks, craters, and caves in the lava beds which are well worth the effort it takes to reach them.

## CAMP GROUNDS

For the convenience of the traveling public the Forest Service has provided and improved camp grounds at the following places in the Lassen National Forest:

**West Branch.**—On the banks of the West Branch of the North Fork of Feather River. Reached from the Humbug Road near Chaparral.

**Butte Meadows.**—Between the Humboldt Road and Butte Creek, at Butte Meadows.

**Mineral.**—Near Mineral, on Battle Creek. One-half mile north of the Lassen Volcanic Highway, on the park road.

**Mill Creek.**—On the Lassen Volcanic Highway, 6 miles east of Mineral, near Mill Creek.

**Feather River Meadows.**—On Lassen Volcanic Highway, on the banks of the North Branch of the North Fork of Feather River.

**Domingo Springs.**—On Lassen Volcanic Highway, at Domingo Springs, where a large spring gushes forth from a lava reef, forming a good-sized stream.

**Fredonyer.**—On Lassen Volcanic Highway, 11 miles west of Susanville.

**Silver Lake.**—Two camps about one-half mile apart, located on the shores of Silver Lake. Easily reached from Westwood or Bogard.

**Bridge Camp, Cave Camp, and Sandy Camp.**—Located along Hat Creek, on the main Hat Creek-Viola Road.

## SUMMER-HOME SITES

For those who desire a permanent summer home in the mountains, the Forest Service has surveyed and subdivided into lots a number of tracts in the Lassen Forest. These lots may be rented at a cost of from \$15 to \$25 per year. Only recently have the possibilities of this form of recreation in the forest been recognized by the public. Over 100 summer-home lots are now in use and additional areas will be surveyed as occasion demands.



F-200538

**A summer home in the Lassen National Forest**

Summer-home tracts are located near Philbrook Reservoir, along Butte Creek, near Jonesville on the Humboldt Road, near Mineral Ranger Station, along the Lassen Volcanic Highway near Mill Creek, near Domingo Springs on the Feather River, along Willow Creek, and on the shores of Silver and Caribou Lakes.

Other forest uses, such as boys' and girls' camps, hotel and resort sites, garages, stores, etc., are also provided for under special-use permit.

Information regarding available summer-home and special-use sites can be obtained from the local district ranger or the forest supervisor at Susanville.

## FISH AND GAME

Deer are fairly plentiful over the entire Lassen Forest, mule deer being found from the Eagle Lake country west to the Hat Creek rim. There are two State game refuges in the forest in which the possession of firearms and hunting is prohibited. Refuge 1-F is located in the Black Mountain country. Refuge 1-G lies between Mill Creek and Deer Creek and extends from the forest boundary east to the North Fork of Deer Creek.

Fair to good fishing is found in the many streams and lakes of the forest. From Lake Almanor and Eagle Lake the largest fish of the region are taken. Waters are stocked each year by the State Division of Fish and Game and various sportsmen's clubs working in cooperation with the Forest Service. The State maintains small hatcheries on the Upper Feather River near Domingo Springs, and on Rock Creek near Westwood.

## CLIMATE

The Lassen National Forest region has a delightful summer climate, with warm, sunshiny days and cool nights. Occasional thunderstorms of short duration occur in summer. The forest is usually open to travel by May 15, except in the higher mountains, which are not accessible before June 15. Heavy fall storms occur in October.

## FIRE PREVENTION

Timber to supply the present and future needs of our State and nation, water for domestic use, irrigation, and hydroelectric power, attractive recreation grounds, and game animals, birds, and fish are all dependent on green forests. Fire is the ever-present danger to all these resources as well as to human life and property. The dry air and light rainfall during the summer months in the mountains of California, combined with the thousands of visitors to the national forests, create extremely hazardous fire conditions. Few people realize how easily fires start in the inflammable forest cover, how difficult they are to control, and what destruction they cause. Many small fires spread into conflagrations—all because of the careless use of matches, burning tobacco, and camp fires. In the past six years 533 fires have occurred in the Lassen National Forest and have burned over an area of 53,750 acres, with heavy losses of valuable natural resources.

All visitors to the Lassen National Forest are required to exercise extreme care with fire at all times. Valuable service can also be rendered by travelers in suppressing small fires and in reporting all fires to the nearest State or Federal forest officers.





F-218443

**Fire—the ever-present enemy of the forest. Seventy per cent of all fires are due to carelessness**

As a fire-prevention measure, visitors to the Lassen National Forest are required to obtain a camp-fire permit before any form of outdoor fire, including fire in stoves burning gasoline, kerosene, or wood, may be started on Government land. Free camp-fire permits may be obtained from all Forest Service officers, as well as from automobile clubs and other authorized agents. During seasons of fire hazard smoking is prohibited in the forest, except in camps or at places of habitation, and each automobile and pack-train party camping in the Lassen Forest must carry a shovel and ax suitable for fire-fighting purposes. Your cooperation in the enforcement of these regulations is requested.

Because of the rapid spread of fire in the forest, the big problem of controlling fires that do start on the Lassen is to get to them while they are still small and easily extinguished. During the fire season, lookouts are stationed on eight high peaks within and near the forest to discover and report "smokes" by telephone to the district ranger or forest supervisor. In addition to the ranger force, 27 forest firemen or guards are employed during the summer season and located at strategic points to help combat the fire danger. But the large size of the forest, compared with the smallness of the protection force, and the difficulty of reaching remote areas, make it essential that the public cooperate in this important work if the valuable timber, water, and forage resources of the Lassen region are to be saved from destruction.

### **THE "LIGHT BURNING" FALLACY**

The fire-protection policy of the Forest Service seeks to prevent fires from starting and to suppress quickly those that may start. This established policy is criti-

cized, by those who hold that the deliberate and repeated burning of forest lands offers the best methods of protecting those lands from devastation by summer fires. Because prior to the inauguration of systematic protection California timberlands were repeatedly burned over without the complete destruction of the forest, many people have reached the untenable conclusion that the methods of Indian days are the best that can be devised for the present. It is commonly assumed in this argument that controlled burning of the forests, either in the spring or fall, is an easy practice which can be carried out at slight expense, with negligible damage to the forest itself, and with complete or nearly complete removal of the accumulated debris which inevitably forms in any growing forest.

It has been found, however, that actually to carry out controlled burning in our diversified mountain topography is an exceedingly difficult and costly practice. If the fires are really "controlled," experience shows that it costs not less than 35 cents per acre each time the forest is burned over and may cost as much as \$1, and since this must be done every few years, the cost over a period of years soon becomes prohibitive for any but the holder of a very small parcel of land. Again, while in theory it is simple to select the proper time of year for burning, in practice it has proved to be extremely difficult to find a time when conditions are such that fires will start without developing into devastating conflagrations with all the characteristics of the summer fires which the practice seeks to prevent.



In the wake of a forest fire

F-95407

Even very light fires properly controlled cause serious damage to the forest. The young trees particularly are killed, and even the largest and most valuable veterans are not immune to death from these creeping fires. It has been found that, even when properly controlled, such fires cause a loss of value amounting to several dollars an acre each time they run through the forest.

The most serious result of repeated burning of the forests is that the gradual destruction of the forest trees leads to the invasion of the land by worthless brush, and this not only makes the reestablishment of the forest difficult, but makes the control of fires infinitely harder and more costly than if a full stand of timber is maintained.

The stock argument of those who advocate the "light burning" of forests is that fire exclusion ultimately leads to the building up of supplies of inflammable material to such an extent that the uncontrollable and completely destroying fire is certain to occur. The experience of the Forest Service in California, after 15 years or more of fire fighting, does not lead to any such conclusion. Large and destructive fires have occurred, particularly in very dry years, but none of these fires approach in size or destructiveness some of the conflagrations that occurred on light-burned grounds in the days when the control of fires in the forest was nobody's business. Records show that these early-day fires burned for months unchecked and covered entire major watersheds in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range. The presence of nearly two million acres of brush now occupying lands which formerly supported a merchantable forest is eloquent testimony that such fires were just as destructive as are the fires of to-day.

The existing policy of the Forest Service in fire prevention and suppression has not been reached on the basis of guesswork. It represents continuous and critical study of forest fires. Fire exclusion is the only practical principle on which our forests can be handled if we are to protect what we have and insure new and more fully stocked forests for the future.

**Get the "Fire Bug"! The Forest Service will pay from \$100 to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons on the charge of wilfully and maliciously setting on fire any timber, underbrush or grass on National Forest lands.**



## ADMINISTRATION

The national forests are administered by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The 18 national forests of California comprise one of the nine districts into which the forests of the United States are grouped. The headquarters of the California District is located in San Francisco.

The Lassen National Forest is administered by a forest supervisor, whose office is located at Susanville. The forest is divided into five ranger districts, each in the charge of a district ranger:

DISTRICT	LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS
Magalia-----	Butte Meadows.
Mineral-----	Mineral.
Hat Creek-----	Hat Creek.
Bogard-----	Bogard (post office, Susanville).
Coppervale-----	Coppervale (post office, Westwood).

Visitors are urged to register at these stations so that any important messages received for them may be delivered. Telephones are located at stations throughout the forest, which may be used in case of urgent need.

Forest officers are always glad to furnish information and render assistance consistent with their regular duties.

### GOOD MANNERS IN THE FOREST

A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forest—

First obtains a camp-fire permit.

Carries a shovel and an ax.

Smokes only in camp.

Puts his fire dead out with water.

Leaves a clean and sanitary camp.

Observes the State fish and game laws.

Cooperates with the forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires.

Preaches what he practices.

**DO YOU?**

**The resources of the Lassen National Forest are for your use and enjoyment. Help protect them from damage and destruction by fire.**



**Camp-fire permits are required in all national forests in California. Issued free by United States Forest Service officers, State forest rangers, automobile clubs, and other authorized agents.**

## ***Six Rules for Preventing Fire in the Forest***

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making camp.**—Before building a camp fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. **Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Brush burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to put out a camp fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water, stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

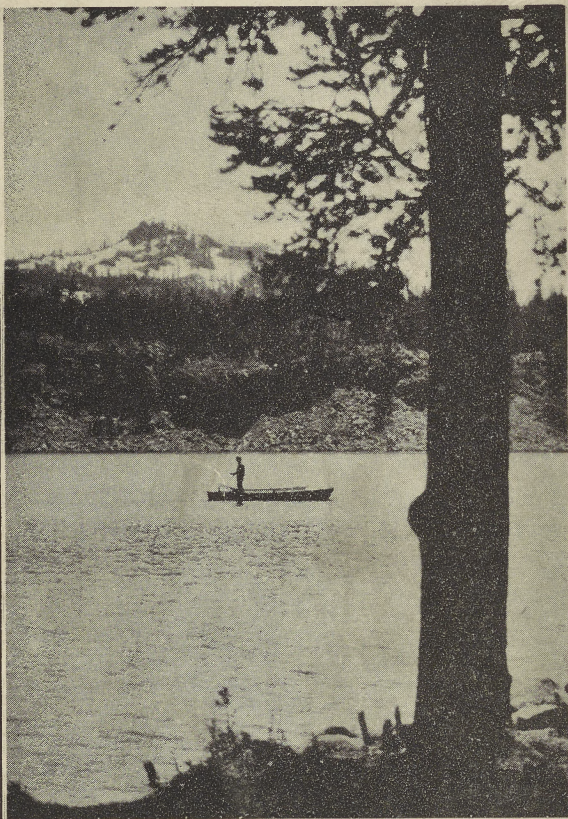
Game and fish depend on forests and streams. Both are destroyed by fire.



# LASSEN

## NATIONAL FOREST

### CALIFORNIA

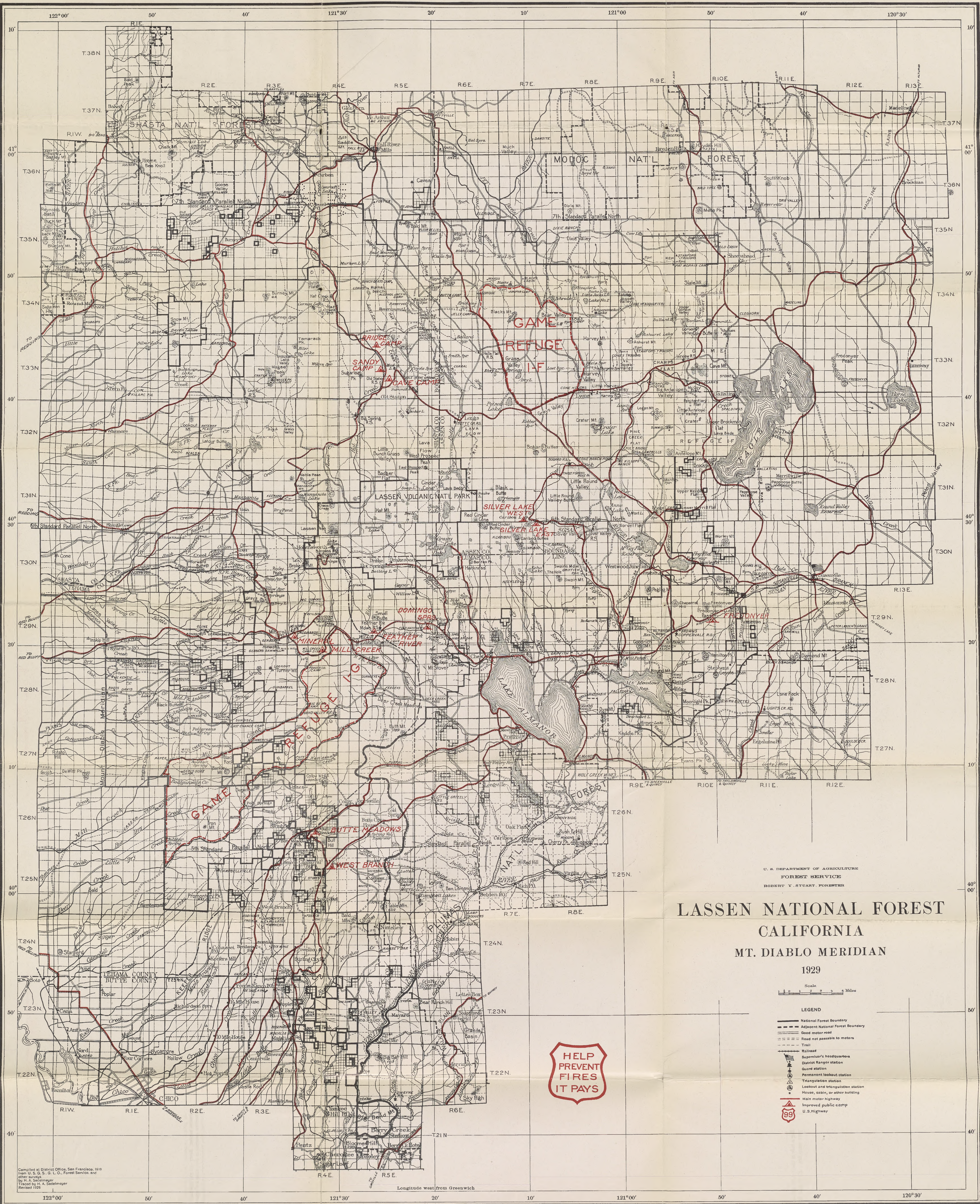


F-200563

Silver Lake and Caribou Butte—a popular recreation center  
in the Lassen National Forest

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
ROBERT V. STUART, FORESTER

# LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST CALIFORNIA MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN 1929

Scale  
0 1 2 Miles

- LEGEND
- National Forest Boundary
  - Adjacent National Forest Boundary
  - Good motor road
  - Road not passable to motors
  - Trail
  - Railroad
  - Supervisor's headquarters
  - District Ranger station
  - Game station
  - Permanent lookout station
  - Triangulation station
  - Lookout and triangulation station
  - House, cabin, or other building
  - Main motor highway
  - Improved public camp
  - U.S. Highway



Compiled at District Office, San Francisco, 1919  
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by H. A. Satermeyer  
Traced by H. A. Satermeyer  
Revised 1929

Longitude west from Greenwich

A13.13-69.3